

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 42-45 and 49-50 have been withdrawn by the Examiner due to a restriction requirement, claims 37-57 and 59-78 will be pending, claims 37, 54, 59, and 62-65 will have been amended, claims 69-78 will have been added, and claims 1-36 and 58 will have been canceled. Entry and consideration of this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 are requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 37-38, 41, 47-48, 51-53, 58, 62, 64, and 68 were rejected as final under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,386,751 to *Wootan* et al. (“*Wootan*”). Claims 37-40, 46-48, 51, and 54-68 were rejected as final under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Abstract Publication Number 60226594 to *Mitsuhisa* (“*Mitsuhisa*”).

Applicants traverse these rejections.

Both *Wootan* and *Mitsuhisa* fail to teach the present invention and specifically fail to teach the present claims. For example, as amended, independent Claims 37, 54, and 59 recite that the flow path is substantially free of cavitation. Neither *Wootan* nor *Mitsuhisa* teach or suggest such an arrangement. In fact, both *Wootan* and *Mitsuhisa* have flow paths with cavitation occurring specifically in the flow path (*Wootan* teaches cavitation occurring in channel 32 and *Mitsuhisa* teaches a rotator that creates cavitation in all areas therearound). Independent claims 62 and 74 recite that the cavitation zones are displaced from the flow path. Neither *Wootan* nor *Mitsuhisa* teach such arrangement, since in *Wootan* cavitation occurs within the channel 32 (See Figs. 2a - 2c, 6, 7a - 7c, and 7h of *Wootan*) and *Mitsuhisa* teaches cavitation

occurring in the flow path. Independent claims 63-65 recite that varying the pressure within the plurality of cavitation zones varies a height dimension of cavitation in the plurality of cavitation zones. Neither *Wootan* and *Mitsuhisa* teach such an arrangement since cavitation in each reference occurs in flow paths and since neither teaches that the height of cavitation can be varied by varying pressure. All dependent claims are allowable as written and as inheriting the allowable characteristics of the independent claims upon which they depend. Accordingly, claims 37-57 and 59-78 are allowable over *Wootan* and *Mitsuhisa* and rejections based thereupon should be withdrawn.

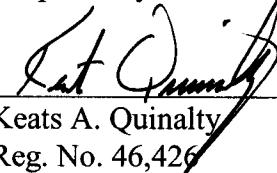
CONCLUSION

Since all claims are in condition for allowance, Applicants request an early notice of allowance be issued.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Order Account No. 09-0528.

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Respectfully submitted,


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